have launched a National Horticulture Mission for the development of horticulture in the country including Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Mission would address the development of horticulture duly ensuring end-to-end approach covering production, post-harvest management and marketing. The Mission envisages assistance for promoting production through supply of good quality planting material, coverage of new areas with improved varieties, rejuvenation of senile orchard, integrated pest management, creation of infrastructure for disease forecasting, post-harvest management and marketing.

Setting up of cold storages in Tamil Nadu

504. SHRI C. PERUMAL:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute fall in prices of tomatoes and lemons in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is proposed to assist the State Government suitably in order to set up cold storage units on a war footing to save the produce and also the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Assistance@ 25% of cost for setting up cold storage units is being provided by the National Horticulture Board under the scheme on "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages for Horticulture Produce." Besides, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Horticulture Mission"(NHM) has been launched which could be availed by the State Government to construct cold storages in potential areas. Under NHM also the project is entrepreneur driven for which the assistance is limited to 25% of the cost of Rs. 2 Crore/unit.

Concern on proposed Seed Bill

505. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Research Foundation for Science,

Technology and Ecology expressed its grave concern on the proposed Seed Bill;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed seed Bill will stop farmers from seed saving, seed exchange and seed reproduction; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No such reference has been received from Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology expressing its grave concern on the proposed Seed Bill.

(b) No, Sir. The proposed seed Bill has provision for exemption from registration of varieties by the farmers under clause 43(1) of the said Bill which reads as under:

"Nothing in this Act shall restrict the right of the farmer to save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm seeds and planting material, except that he shall not sell such seed or planting material under a brand name or which does not conform to the minimum limit of germination, physical purity, genetic purity prescribed under clause (a) or clause (b) of section 6."

(c) Question does not arise.

Fish production in Bihar

†506 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance fish production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the ratio of Bihar in fish production in the country; and

(d) the measures taken and being taken by Government to enhace fish production in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are in operation during the Tenth Plan to promote fishery sector and enhancing fish

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.